

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1127

By Vital

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Chester Y. Martin of Chattanooga.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Chester Y. Martin; and

WHEREAS, a renowned painter, sculptor, and engraver for the U.S. Mint, Chester Martin was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Chattanooga, Mr. Martin was a graduate of Kirkman Technical High School and the University of Chattanooga; he loved the history of his city and delighted in recounting local stories and taking visitors to interesting locales and attractions around the area; and

WHEREAS, during his service stateside in the United States Air Force, Chester Martin would take his leave in Europe, traveling around with his 8mm camera, taking in the sights and vistas; and

WHEREAS, Chester Martin studied graphic arts and obtained a job as an illustrator, but his particular fondness was for painting in watercolors or oils; he painted many scenes of old Chattanooga, and one of the murals he created for a local club was preserved and relocated to the visitor bureau office at the Chattanooga Municipal Airport (Lovell Field); his watercolors have been represented by the Seaside Art Gallery in Nag's Head, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Martin also created porcelain works to honor his beloved Chattanooga, and one of his pieces included an early streetcar of St. Elmo Car Line as well as the Nyberg automobile, a locally built car; and

WHEREAS, an early member of the American Medalllic Sculpture Association, Chester Martin learned the skills required for bas-relief work, attending the three-week John Cook Medalllic Workshop at Penn State in 1984; he also attended FIDEM (International Art Medal Federation) congresses in Florence, Italy; London, England; and Budapest, Hungary; and

WHEREAS, such was his talent that his medal work was utilized by several entities over the years, including being selected for an FAO medal, a Society of Medalists medal, a Brookgreens Garden medal, and a FIDEM 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary medal; and

WHEREAS, from 1986 to 1992, Chester Martin was a sculptor/engraver at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; he designed the congressional medals for Andrew Wyeth and General Colin Powell, and in the modern commemorative series, he created the reverse of the 1992 White House Bicentennial Silver Dollar. He also designed medals for the Director's Conference and the Yosemite National Park Centennial; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Mr. Martin was honored with the American Numismatic Association's Numismatic Art Award for Excellence in Medalllic Sculpture; his medalllic works are represented in collections of the Smithsonian, British Museum, and Royal Swedish Coin Cabinet, to name but a few; and

WHEREAS, adept with the written word as well, Chester Martin had been composing a column for *Chattanooga.com* and *Chattanooga Times Free Press* since the mid-2010s; and

WHEREAS, he was also devoted to his family and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, left to cherish his memory are his beloved wife of fifty-eight years, Patricia Ann Parnell Martin; daughter and son-in-law, Sharon and Doug "Sparky" McLain; grandsons, Forrest (Nicole) Pruitt and Ian Pruitt; step-granddaughters, Kalyn McLain (Aaron) Billings and Jenna McLain; and step-great-grandsons, Aaron Billings, Jr., and Alexander Billings; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Woodfin B. Martin and Mabel Young Martin, and several beloved pets, the last of whom was a chihuahua named Pokey; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Martin leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Chester Y. Martin, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his exceptional art, and his many contributions to the people of Chattanooga and Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Martin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.